

Montana Transportation Commission

July 28, 2005 meeting ~ 8 am

Thee Garage, 19 W Montana Ave ~ Baker, Montana

SUMMARY MINUTES

Please note: the complete recorded minutes are available for review on the commission's website at http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/trans_comm/. You may request a compact disc (containing the audio files, agenda, and minutes) from the transportation secretary at (406) 444-7200 or ldemont@mt.gov. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (406) 444-7200. The TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592.

The following is an unofficial **summary** of commission action; the formal minutes of this meeting will be reviewed and approved at the next commission meeting.

Agenda item 1: Abandonment of a portion of Danford Drive, Yellowstone County

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the abandonment of a portion of Danford Drive and to direct staff to proceed with the necessary actions to make the abandonment final; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 3: Orange Street Bridge in Missoula – deck sealant project

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the addition of this project to the program; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 4: Wetlands projects

Upper Clark Fork Wetland Mitigation Bank (near Helmville in Powell County)

DH Ranch Wetland Mitigation (south of Laurel in Carbon County)

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve these two wetlands projects; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 5: Culvert repair study on MT 200 near Noxon (Sanders County)

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the completion of a preliminary engineering study of the two failing culverts using STPP funds; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

For additional details, please refer to the commission's website at

www.mdt.state.mt.us/trans_comm/

Agenda item 6: Enhancement projects on MDT right-of-way

College & Huffine Path – Bozeman
Oilfield Avenue Path – Shelby
Landscaping – Broadus
Sidewalks & Landscaping – Missoula
Welcome Signs – Butte

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the five CTEP projects; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. Commissioner Kennedy clarified that the approval would be contingent upon the Federal Highway Administration allowing the welcome signs within the interstate right-of-way.

Frazier noted that there have been other similar requests, such as at the entrance to Billings. Commissioner Howlett suggested a policy be formulated to address future requests and encouraged FHWA to come forward with a broader policy that could be used on a statewide basis.

=> Chairman Kennedy asked staff to bring a policy back to the commission at their next meeting. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 7: Lane reconfiguration and bicycle/pedestrian enhancements on Broadway Street in Missoula

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve ; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion.

Lynch stated for the record that there are groups within Missoula that do not agree with this. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 2: Morning Star Drive project

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to transfer the MACI grant funds to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to construct the Morning Star Drive project using force account crews, subject to an agreement between FHWA, MDT and the BIA as to how the project will be constructed and to transfer complete responsibility to the BIA; Commissioner Howlett seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 8: Increased project scope and cost

NH 11-1(43)43 – Turn bay – 13 km South of Livingston

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the increased scope and cost for project NH 11-1(43)43 for turn bays south of Livingston by Pine Creek Road; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

For additional details, please refer to the commission's website at

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Agenda item 9: Speed limit studies

Old US 10 (X 31011) – Mineral County (east and west of the I 90 Haugan interchange)

US 12 – Miles City (Custer County)

MT 117 – Community of Fort Peck (Valley County)

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the special speed zones as presented; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Communication with local governments

Richland County Commissioner Mark Rehbein requested assistance for Secondary 201 northwest of Sidney. This is a main artery road that's getting heavy use from the oil industry (in excess of 50 trucks per hour, both loaded and unloaded.) Rehbein was averse to asking the other counties to reorder the district priorities (currently Secondary 261) and asked the commission for an alternative solution.

Glendive District Administrator Ray Mengel said the district has already invested \$100,000 in maintenance costs this spring, as well as imposed weight and speed restrictions in an attempt to prevent further deterioration. He estimated it would cost \$7 million to reconstruct the worst eight miles of Secondary 201.

=> Chairman Kennedy asked Lynch to take this back to staff and bring a response back to the commission at their next meeting.

Agenda item 10: Letting dates for 2006

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the letting dates proposed for 2006; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 11: Letting lists

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the lettings lists presented; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion.

Frazier later said we have three bonded projects coming up on US 93: November letting: Medicine tree to vicinity of Red Horn Road (just n of St. Ignatius) vicinity of white coyote road to Ravalli; 3 is Mud creek structures (chk).

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the addition of these projects to the lettings; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

For additional details, please refer to the commission's website at

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Agenda item 12: Certificates of completion

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the certificates of completion for April and May 2005; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 13: Project change orders

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the project change orders as presented; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 14: Liquidated damages

The commission took no action therefore the liquidated damages stand.

Agenda item 15: Re-bid project on Secondary 323

Commissioner Espy moved that we move rapidly to move the project forward and award the project via telephone poll by the commission secretary; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. Chairman Kennedy suggested amending the motion to delegate authority to Chief Engineer Loran Frazier to award the project. Commissioner Espy withdrew the motion and amended it. Commissioner Griffith seconded the amended motion. => Chairman Kennedy asked Frazier to let the commission know when the project is awarded. All five commissioners voted aye.

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